

August 7, 2009

Docket ID: CDC-2008-0001



Docket Title: Medical Examination of Aliens – Removal of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection from Definition of Communicable Disease of Public Health Significance

RIN: 0920-AA26

The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information exchange (CATIE) champions and supports innovation and excellence in knowledge exchange for the prevention of HIV transmission, and the care, treatment and support of people with HIV by:

- collaborating with and building the capacity of front line organizations to use knowledge effectively to respond to the HIV epidemic;
- supporting and connecting people with HIV, other individuals, and organizations to develop, synthesize, share and apply HIV knowledge;
- acting as a central contact point for the flow of comprehensive, accurate, unbiased, timely and accessible HIV information and community-based knowledge.

We support the proposed rule that would lift the immigration ban on visitors and immigrants living with HIV/AIDS, stop unfair mandatory HIV testing of immigrants, and remove references to HIV from the scope of examinations in its regulations. This change will restore the U.S. as a leader in the areas of human rights, equal treatment under law, and public health.

The change is needed because:

- There is no scientific or public health justification for HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence.
- Restrictions on entry, stay, and residence based on HIV status are discriminatory
- The enforcement of HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence can, and does, violate other human rights.
- HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay, and residence can impede effective responses to HIV.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]